

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01  
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----- 126593 /21

R 141140Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 431

UNCLAS TEHRAN 12356

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PFOR, IR, XD, SF  
SUBJ: EDITORIAL ON IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

REF: TEHRAN 12296

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. LATEST IN THE SERIES OF RECENT EDITORIALS SETTING FORTH IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY IS FOLLOWING COMMENT FROM TEHRAN JOURNAL OF DECEMBER 14 WHICH IS REPRODUCED IN ITS ENTIRETY. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT EDITORIAL EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE TO IRAN OF ITS EASTERN FORNTIERS(PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, INDIA, ETC.) ALONG WITH CONTINUING INTEREST IN SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

"RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF THE SUBCONTINENT WERE RECEIVED IN TEHRAN WITH MUCH SATISFACTION AND OPTIMISM. FOR IRAN, AN ADDED FACTOR WAS THE RECOGNITION BY LEADERS OF PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, FOR INSTANCE, THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY BY THIS COUNTRY PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE CHANGE OF ATMOSPHERE.

"THIS ROLE IRAN IS WELL SUITED TO PERFORM. SITUATED IN WEST ASIA, IRAN HAS AS MUCH CONCERN FOR THE STABILITY AND WELL BEING OF ITS EASTERN NEIGHBORS AS FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG THE PERSIAN GULF LITTORAL STATES, A NON-NUCLEAR ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT LARGE AND PEACEFUL COOPERATION WITH ITS NEIGHBOR, IRAQ.

"THE SHAHANSHAH IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
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ISSUED THE TIMELY WARNING AGAINST ANY MISCONCEPTION THAT THE

HORMOZ STRAITS ALONE COMPRIZE THIS COUNTRY'S JUGULAR VEIN; IT IS INDEED JUST AS IMPORTANT FOR IRAN THAT THE PEACEFUL CONDITIONS NOW PREVAILING EAST OF IRAN SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, NOTHING CAN BE BETTER THAN THE MAINTENANCE OF STATUS QUO FOR IRAN AS WELL AS ITS EASTERN NEIGHBORS.

"AS THE SHAHANSHAH OBSERVEDD, "JUST IMAGINE--IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO PAKISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN, WE SHALL HAVE AN ENTIRELY NEW SITUATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN." THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A CHANGE CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. THEREFORE IRAN HAS ACTED IN RIGHT EARNEST BY FORGING CLOSE LINKS WITH INDIA, PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, SRI LANKA AND COUNTRIES FARTHER STILL, LIKE BANGLADESH. A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO FINANCING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THESE COUNTRIES--THE BASIC AIM OF COURSE BEING THE GUARANTEEING OF POLITICAL STABILITY THROUGH ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION.

"AGAIN AS A PILLAR OF STABILITY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, IRAN CANNOT IGNORE TO PERFORM ITS ROLE IN THE PERSIAN GULF. "JUST IMAGINE IF OMAN HAD FALLEN TO THE HANDS OF THE PFLOS (THE DEFUNCT TERRORIST ORGANIZATION) THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM HAD SET UP THERE," THE SHAHANSHAH ADDRESSED THE AP INTERVIEWER. THEY COULD HAVE THREATENED, WITH ALMOST NOTHING, THE FREE PASSAGE OF ALL THAT SOURCE OF ENERGY TO THE WORLD.

"OUR STRENGTH WILL BE FIRST OF ALL THE STABILITY OF OUR OWN PEOPLE. THEN IRAN CONTRIBUTES TO THE STABILITY OF THE ENTIRE PERSIAN GULF AREA BECAUSE WE MAINTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL THE RIPARIAN STATES. IF THEY COOPERATE WITH US, SO MUCH THE BETTER. IF NOT WE HAVE GOT TO BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE STRAITS OPEN, IF NECESSARY ALONE.

"SINCE THE LITTORAL STATES HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE DESIRD SCALE OF FULL COORDINATION, IT IS NATURAL FOR IRAN TO BE PREPARED FOR ALL EVENTUALITIES. THIS HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD SOMETIMES, AND SOMETIMES NOT, AND THERE IS IGNORANCE ABOUT THE CONDITIONS OBTAINING IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD OR LACK OF SIMPLE, GEOPOLITICAL KNOWLEDGE.

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"THE ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENT FOR INSTANCE WAS ABLE TO WATCH FOR HIMSELF THE OIL SHIPPING THROUGH THE STRAITS OF HORMOZ AND REALIZED HOW THIS VITAL, INTERNATIONAL LIFE-LINE COULD BE CUT EASILY. THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NEED FOR THE WORLD AT LARGE PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO APPRECIATE THE SIGNIFICNACE OF IRAN'S MILITARY PREPAREDNESS, TO COME AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES BEFORE UNLOADING OPINIONS OF DUBIOUS MERIT ON THE REST OF THE WORLD."

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TEHRAN12356  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760460-0984  
**From:** TEHRAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 116  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 TEHRAN 12296  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EDITORIAL ON IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IR, XD, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006